In the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1(Previously Presented): A method of configuring software on a piece of configurable equipment, comprising the steps of:

interfacing the piece of configurable equipment in communication with a network, the piece of configurable equipment having at least one machine-resolvable codes

5   associated therewith, which machine-resolvable codes has an association stored at an intermediate location on the network with a network address of a remote location on the network and an association stored at the remote location with software with which to configure the configurable equipment;

reading with a reader the machine resolvable codes;

10   connecting the piece of configurable equipment to the remote location disposed on the network, after first connecting to the intermediate location on the network to obtain the network address of the remote location, in response to and as a function of reading the at least one machine-resolvable codes with the reader;

downloading software associated with the at least one machine-resolvable codes

15   from the remote location to the piece of configurable equipment; and;

configuring the piece of configurable equipment according to the downloaded software.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one machine-resolvable codes in the step of providing contain transaction information which indicates the type of software with which to configure the piece of configurable equipment.

Claim 3 (Original): The method of Claim 2, wherein the transaction information indicates a software update.

Claim 4 (Original): The method of Claim 3, wherein the software update is equipment driver software.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of Claim 2, wherein the transaction information is associated with operating mode information which places the piece of configurable equipment in a select one of one or more operating modes.

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 5, wherein the select one of one operating modes is determined by a subscribed level of support from a vendor of the piece of configurable equipment.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one machine-resolvable codes in the step of providing are is on the piece of configurable equipment.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one machine-resolvable codes in the step of providing are is separate from the piece of configurable equipment.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein, after the step of connecting first connects to an intermediate location on the network to obtain a network address of the remote location on the network, the intermediate location connects to the remote location to facilitate retrieval of the configuration information to the piece of configurable equipment.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 9, wherein a lookup operation is performed at the intermediate location based upon a transaction code contained in the select one of the at least one machine-resolvable codes to obtain the network address of the remote location.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the step of configuring is performed automatically without user intervention.

Claim 12 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein a user interacts with a user interface during the step of configuring to control the step of configuring of the piece of configurable equipment.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of Claim 12, wherein the user interface comprises user interaction with front-panel hardware of the piece of configurable equipment.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the reader in the step of connecting connects to a computer disposed on the network, and the piece of configurable equipment connects to the computer via a peripheral communication port of the computer such that in response to the select one of the at least one machine-resolvable codes being read, the software is sent through the computer in step of downloading to the piece of configurable equipment via the peripheral communication port.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the reader in the step of reading connects to a computer disposed on the network at a source location, such that in response to the select one of the one or more machine-resolvable codes being read, the software is transmitted to the piece of configurable equipment, which piece of configurable equipment is also located at the source location proximately to the computer.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of Claim 1, wherein the network is global communication network.

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one machine-resolvable codes in the step of providing are is in the form of a bar code, and the reader is a bar code scanner.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least one machine-resolvable codes in the step of providing are is in the form of a magnetic strip.

Claim 19 (Original):   The method of Claim 1, wherein the piece of configurable equipment is a personal computer.